



For Immediate Release:
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Conyers Releases Nonpartisan Congressional Study Questioning Legality of NSA Phone Call Monitoring

Congressman John Conyers, Jr. today released the attached report by the Congressional Research Service concerning the NSA's monitoring the phone call records of millions of law abiding U.S. citizens. CRS identified the various statutes that would apply to the matter and concluded that these statutes may "expose the telephone companies to some civil remedies or criminal sanctions. In addition, a request not founded upon a statutory scheme would appear to lack a means of compelling production of the information requested."

Conyers added, "The attached report suggests that in providing the NSA with millions of phone records of innocent Americans, the telephone service providers violated a number of Federal statutes including the Communications Act of 1934 and 18 U.S.C. § 2701 governing access to stored electronic communications and transactional records. In addition, the NSA may well be in violation of both FISA and related federal laws governing trap and trace devices. Given this analysis, it is clear that we as a congress need to step up and investigate these very serious charges."

A copy of the report may be found here:
http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/crsgovphoneaccessrept51706.pdf

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